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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,313	09/16/2003	Andreas Michael Albat	C525 0333	1794

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Harry Booyens
Creo Inc.
3700 Gilmore Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 4M1
CANADA

EXAMINER

MORRISON, THOMAS A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3653

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/662,313

Applicant(s)

ALBAT ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 September 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/16/2003
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, (1) the protruding lip of claim 9;(2) the groove of claim 10; (3) the line marked on the printer of claim 11 and (4) the proximity sensor of claim 13 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 5, 11, 13, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 5, it is unclear whether or not the applicant is claiming the sheet as part of the alignment device.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "registration feature" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Regarding claim 13, this claim recites at least one registration feature. It is unclear whether this is the same at least one registration feature of claim 1 or a different registration feature.

Regarding claim 15, it is unclear what is meant by the recite "it". Does "it" refer to the media sheet, the registration feature or some other element?

Regarding claim 16, this claim does not clearly recite the steps of the method.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-13, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi. In particular, the Takahashi patent meets all of the limitations of claims 1-6, 8-10 and 12-13.

Regarding the independent claim 1, Figs. 1, 3 and 4 show an alignment device (including 104 and 105) for aligning a media sheet (18) with a print axis of a printer (i.e., axis of element 42), the media sheet (18) having a leading edge (near 78) and a trailing edge (near 104), the device including at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) for aligning the trailing edge (near 104 in Fig. 1) of the media sheet (18), the registration feature (including 104 and 105) located in alignment with the print axis of the printer. More specifically, both the numeral 104 and the axis of element 42 (i.e., the axis of the printer) are perpendicular to the page including Fig. 1. As such, they are aligned with each other.

Regarding claim 2, the alignment of the registration feature (including 104 and 105) to the print axis is adjustable. See column 4, lines 14-18.

Regarding claim 3, the registration feature (including 104 and 105) is located on a media sheet support surface (shown in Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 4, the media sheet support surface (Fig. 3) is removeably attached to the printer. More specifically, Fig. 2 shows that the entire cassette 14 including the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) is removable from the rest of the printer.

Regarding claim 5, the media sheet (18) is loaded into the printer from above and the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) is located above the printer. In particular, the

manual insertion guide of Fig. 5 allows media sheets (18) to be loaded from above.

Also, Fig. 1 shows that the support surface extends above the printer.

Regarding claim 6, the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) is attached to the printer via at least one bracket (near 91 in Fig. 3).

Regarding claim 8, Figs. 1-3 show that the bracket (near 91 in Fig. 3) is adapted to allow the support surface (shown in Fig. 3) in the cassette (14) to be displaced relative to the print axis (i.e., axis of element 42) so that a media sheet (18) aligned to the registration feature (including 104 and 105) can be aligned to the print axis (i.e., axis of element 42). More specifically, Figs. 1-3 show that the cassette (14) with the support surface and the bracket (near 91 in Fig. 3) can be moved relative to the cassette-mounting portion (30) (e.g., can be inserted or pulled out). Also, Fig. 1 shows that when cassette (14) is inserted into the cassette-mounting portion (30), the media sheet (18), which is aligned to the registration feature (including 104 and 105), is also aligned to the print axis (i.e., axis of member 42).

Regarding claim 9, the at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) includes a protruding lip (105).

Regarding claim 10, the at least one registration feature (including 104 and 105) including a groove (near 103 and between protrusions shown in Fig. 4).

Regarding claim 12, Fig. 1 shows that the printer includes a roll feed media compartment cover (including 12) and the registration feature (including 104 and 105) is located on the roll feed media compartment cover (including 12). In as much as

applicant's registration feature is located on a roll feed media cover, the registration feature (including 104 and 105) of Takahasi is also located on a cover as claimed.

Regarding claim 13, the at least one registration feature includes a proximity sensor (including 26) for detecting the location of the trailing edge of the media sheet (18). See column 7, line 45 to column 8, line 21 and column 8, lines 55-61.

4. Claims 1-2, 9, 12, 14 and 15, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mc Cue, Jr. et al. In particular, the Mc Cue, Jr. et al. patent meets all of the limitations of claims 1-2, 9, 12, 14 and 15.

Regarding claim 1, Figs. 1 and 5 show an alignment device (including 35) for aligning a media sheet (85) with a print axis of a printer (i.e., axis 92), the media sheet (85) having a leading edge (near 88) and a trailing edge (near 35), the device including at least one registration feature (including 35) for aligning the trailing edge (near 35) of the media sheet (85), the registration feature (including 35) located in alignment with the print axis (i.e., axis 92) of the printer. In particular, both the axis 92 and the contacting face of 35 are perpendicular to the face of the sheet including Fig. 5. As such, the axis 92 and the face of 35 are aligned with each other.

Regarding claim 2, Fig. 7 shows that the alignment of the registration feature (including 35) to the print axis (92) is adjustable.

Regarding claim 9, Figs. 1 and 5 show that the at least one registration feature (including 35) has a protruding lip (35).

Regarding claim 12, Fig. 14 shows that the printer includes a roll feed media compartment cover (including 24) and the registration feature (including 35) is located

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on the roll feed media compartment cover (including 24). In as much as applicant's registration feature is located on a roll feed media cover, the registration feature (including 35) of McCue et al. is also located on a cover as claimed.

Regarding claim 14, Figs. 6-13 show a method of aligning a media sheet (85) to be loaded into a printer along a feed path, the sheet (85) having a leading edge (near 88) and a trailing edge (near 35), the method including

loading the media sheet (85) so that the leading edge (near 88) of the sheet (85) is in proximity to the feed path (e.g., Fig. 6); and

aligning the trailing edge (e.g., Fig. 7) of the media sheet (85) to least one registration feature (including 35).

Regarding claim 15, Fig. 7 shows adjusting of the registration feature (including 35) so that it (e.g., the media sheet) is in alignment with a print axis of the printer (i.e., axis of element 92).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 16, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCue, Jr. et al. McCue, Jr. et al. shows that the media sheet (85) has a front and rear surfaces that can both be printed on. The examiner takes official notice that it is well known to put a media sheet into a printer, print one side of the

media sheet, flip over the media sheet, put the media sheet back into the printer and print the back side of the media sheet, in order to print out two pages of material on one sheet and also conserve paper. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention, to print one side of the media sheet, flip the media sheet over and print on the back side of the media sheet, in order to conserve paper.

6. Claim 7, as best understood, is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McCue, Jr. et al. in view of Japanese Publication No. 59-203017. The McCue, Jr. et al. patent discloses all of the elements, except for the lock.

Fig. 10 of Japanese Publication No. 59-203017 shows that it is well known to provide a sheet handling apparatus with a locking mechanism (including 21c and 700) for securely fastening a sheet holder (including 21) to the sheet handling apparatus. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention, to provide the McCue, Jr. et al. apparatus with a locking mechanism in order to securely fasten the paper holder (i.e., with the support surface) to the printer, as shown in Japanese Publication No. 59-203017.


Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is 703-305-0554. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on 703-306-4173. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


DONALD P. WALSH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600